

BULLETIN



HERE COMES THE SUN!
OPALCO COMMUNITY SOLAR'S
A BIG WIN FOR MEMBERS





On the cover: OPALCO's first community solar project—the biggest community solar project in Washington state at the time it was built—is located on about 3.6 acres at an OPALCO substation on Decatur Island, an outer island with no ferry service and a population of less than 50 full-time residents.

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WOMEN IN PUBLIC POWER SCHEDULED FOR NOVEMBER IN PORTLAND

We are happy to announce that November 7 and 8 will be the dates of the 2018 Women in Public Power Conference in Portland, Ore. Now in its fourth year, this popular event is an opportunity for women in public power to learn, develop, and network together in an effort to strengthen not only themselves but also the talent pool across the region.

“We often get asked about the difference between this conference and other conferences for women in the power industry and the answer is crystal clear to us: ours is about development,” said NWPPA Director of Education and Workforce Development Elaine Dixon. “We focus on the development of women in an environment that is very likely different than the one they work in every day. And based on stories from participants in the last three years, it is working!”

Our curriculum is developed around five critical success factors: know yourself, confidence, resilience, communication, and connection. We center the speakers, facilitators, and learning experiences around these five themes.

Each year we utilize an assessment instrument to help with the Know Yourself component of the conference. These tools allow us to better understand our natural preferences and how they show

up in various work situations. This year the assessment will focus on how you show up—your strengths and weaknesses—within your team. Participants will select and prioritize working preferences. The results show how strengths can best be utilized and areas where flexibility will help attendees increase their effectiveness in relation to the team around them. As always, there are no right or wrong styles—only opportunities to make choices about what comes naturally and where we want to stretch ourselves.

Throughout the two days, participants will gain tools and hear stories and experiences from women across the industry who have taken multiple paths in their careers.

Presenters, including Portland General Electric CEO Maria Pope and Tacoma Public Utilities CEO Jackie Flowers, will discuss how they kept their options open, tried something new, and/or risked failure, and in the process enhanced their careers.

At this year’s mini skill-building workshop, Jennifer Reynolds, associate professor of law and faculty director for the Alternative Dispute Resolution Center, University of Oregon, will lead an interactive session on negotiation because there is a methodology to

asking for and getting what you need to successfully do your job. Participants will learn key components and barriers to identifying what is critical, how to go after it, and making trade-off choices as part of a team.

Jennifer Cloer, co-founder and executive producer of “The Chasing Grace Project,” has spent years in the tech industry and will share perspectives on resilience. She’ll also talk about what she has learned through her own journey as well as through the dozens of interviews for her pivotal documentary series.

Building connections remains a vital part of this program. Between the ever-powerful speed dating, group work, lunches, and reception, you will meet new people and hone your networking skills. Make key contacts, find an expert to help solve a problem, brainstorm an exciting solution, become or find a mentor—it’s all part of expanding your network across our public power industry.

Visit www.nwppa.org to register now and join us on November 7-8 at the Embassy Suites Portland Airport for a learning and development opportunity you’ll never forget. Last year’s event sold out early, so do not hesitate! If you have any questions about the event, send an email to elaine@nwppa.org. **NWPPA**

Women in Public Power

CONFERENCE

NOVEMBER 7-8, 2018 | PORTLAND, ORE.

Accounting & Finance Conference Returns with Gusto

Nearly 70 utility employees gathered in Spokane, Wash., in June for the return of the NWPPA Accounting & Finance Conference. “After a long hiatus the accounting and finance conference is back,” proclaimed Committee Chair Tod Young from Flathead Electric Cooperative.

But just how long had it been since NWPPA had held this event? Sandi McCee, a retired CPA and speaker at this year’s conference, knew the answer because she had been a member of the planning committee for the last one, which had been held in Bend, Ore., in 2004. It’s been 14 years since the last NWPPA Accounting & Finance Conference!

The Bald Futurist, Steve Brown, kicked off the conference with a look at new technology that is currently being tested worldwide and the effect it will have on the utility industry within the next several years. Brown spoke about the rise of electric vehicles, self-driving cars, and automated food trucks that can be requested via a mobile app. For many, the most astonishing technology included in the mix was flying vehicles (cars) that are currently being tested among the high-rises in Dubai. He emphasized that the advances that took the world into the industrial era, as well as the progression from horses and buggies to automobiles, evolved over a gradual slope of time—approximately 100 years. In comparison, the current advances in technology are coming at us at a rate of change that spans only 20-30 years without a pause in sight. His message was loud and clear: prepare your utility now because the future is coming very quickly.

After Brown, attendees jumped right into breakout sessions. Knowing that they had to make the return of this conference extra special, the conference planning committee built separate learning tracks: one for PUDs and municipalities, and another for cooperatives. Young explained that the intent was to provide for more in-depth discussion on topics that pertained specifically to utility type, something the former conference did not address. In addition to the three breakout sessions, the conference included lunch and general sessions that addressed payment risk, FEMA, rate studies, and rate change; a panel discussion with utility CFOs; and roundtable discussions.

A special thank you to conference sponsors SEDC and CoBank. Their support of NWPPA is very much appreciated and helps make our events a success.

Throughout the conference the committee requested clear and honest feedback from attendees and attendees did not disappoint. Armed with this information, the planning committee is already working to build the 2019 conference. To help with this endeavor, the committee welcomed new members Christopher Kriek of Salem Electric, Gregg King of the City of Port Angeles, and Melissa Ankeny of Clark Public Utilities. Returning committee members for 2019 include Young, Jon Meyer of Benton PUD, Ted Flint of Northern Lights, Inc., Robb Carr of Tanner Electric, and Dian Syria of Chelan PUD.

“I was proud to be part of the group that helped bring this event back. I feel the 2018 conference was a success and offered relevant and valuable learning sessions,” said Meyer. “Thank you to everyone that attended. I hope you’ll join us in 2019.”

More information about the 2019 Accounting & Finance Conference will be available in late September. If you have any questions or topic ideas, please contact Jenny Keesey at jenny@nwppa.org. **NWPPA**



NWPPA CFO Brent Lay welcomed attendees to the conference.



CFO panel with (L-R) Ted Flint, Northern Lights, Inc.; Tod Young, Flathead Electric Cooperative; Jon Meyer, Benton PUD; and Amber Orr, Pend Oreille PUD.



Steve Brown, the Bald Futurist, opened the event.

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WHAT YOU CAN EXPECT FROM THE 2018 NIC

NWPPA and the NIC Planning Committee are excited to see our communicator, marketing, and energy efficiency colleagues and friends back in Coeur d'Alene for this year's Northwest Communications and Energy Innovations Conference, September 16-19.

For two and a half days, keynote speakers, panelists, and industry experts will bring insights, ideas, options, case studies, and updates on the following topics:

- Improvisational techniques in communication
- New feeds and video on the go
- New technology for energy efficiency in the home
- Insights to poverty and bias
- Responding to fast-moving fires
- Weatherization program successes
- Points of view from utility CEOs
- Legislative updates
- Airborne thermal imagery
- Cryptocurrency mining operations
- Electric vehicle trends
- More Powerful Together superstars

Two roundtable discussions, luncheon hot topics, and plenty of networking opportunities will round out the event.

Plus, this year's Tuesday evening banquet will be extra special because it is celebrating the silver anniversary of our Excellence in Communications

awards. Dust off your cocktail dresses and neckties, and come celebrate 25 years of the largest utility communications contest in the Northwest that evening. Thanks to our supportive—and competitive—members, we blew away the old record with a whopping 229 entries from 41 entities. Thank you to all who participated!

But wait! There's more! Stay one more afternoon in beautiful Coeur d'Alene after the NIC ends Wednesday morning and participate in the post-conference workshop: *The Secrets of Social Media—Clues for Connecting with Electric Utility Customers*.

This four-hour workshop, facilitated by Molly McPherson, will address how the communication landscape of utilities is radically different than it was 20 years ago, largely because of online vehicles and social media. As the number of customers and members using the social network continues to rise, so does the need for communicators to manage their utility's messaging in person, and on social media.

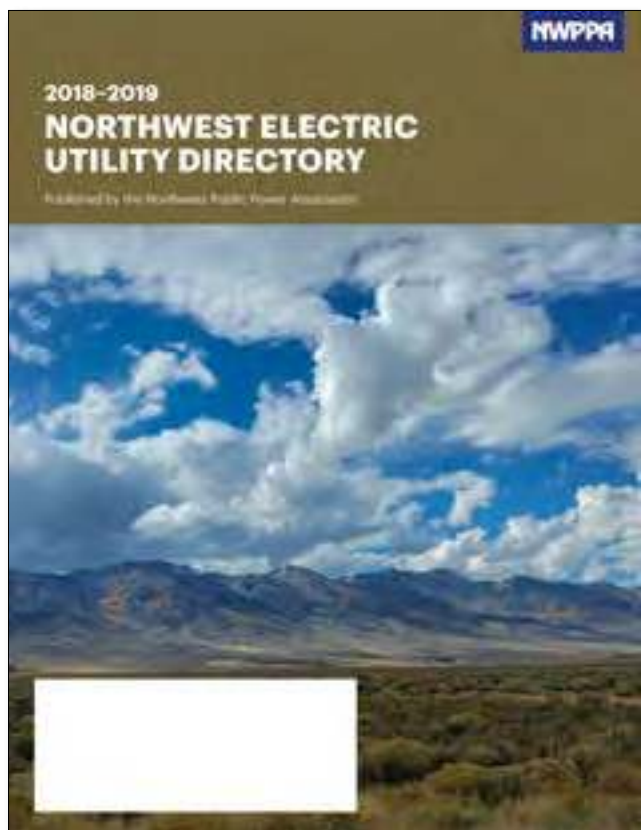
McPherson will combine her thorough knowledge of current social media tools and practices with years of news and public relations experience. As a highly rated speaker, executive trainer, and instructor for industry education programs, she frequently works with electric utility employees across the U.S. and we are excited to have her join us in Coeur d'Alene on September 19.

Register for both events now at <http://bit.ly/NWPPANIC>. NWPPA

NORTHWEST COMMUNICATIONS & ENERGY INNOVATIONS CONFERENCE

COMMUNITY
THE HEART OF PUBLIC POWER

SEPTEMBER 16–19, 2018
COEUR D'ALENE, IDAHO



Watch your mailbox this month for the 2018-2019 Northwest Electric Utility Directory!

A Look Back at Public Power

50 YEARS AGO—1968

Joseph D. Cockrell succeeded J. D. Ferguson as superintendent of Tacoma City Light (Wash.) ... Robert Johnson, Benton County Public Utility District commissioner, was honored for 25 years of outstanding public service by electric utility officials throughout the Northwest (Wash.) ... John E. Schriener was named chief engineer for Central Lincoln PUD after formally being employed as the division manager (Ore.) ... Clarence V. Harlander, assistant commercial manager for Snohomish County PUD, retired after an extensive utility career that spanned more than 40 years (Wash.) ... Robert W. Perry was appointed to the Clark County PUD Board of Commissioners (Wash.).

25 YEARS AGO—1993

NWPPA welcomed its newest member: Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Association in Sidney, Mont. ... Robert L. Crump was selected to replace A. Erval Rainey as the general manager of Kootenai Electric Cooperative (Idaho) ... Enid Smith, a major force behind the creation of Emerald People's Utility District, retired from the utility (Ore.) ... Seattle City Light appointed Barbra Harvey-Brayton as head of its retail branch (Wash.) ... The Benton Rural Electric Association Board of Trustees named Fred Guyer as president to fill the vacancy created when Vonard Bedker resigned from the board (Wash.).

5 YEARS AGO—2013

Energy Northwest teamed up with NuScale Power and Utah Associated Municipal Power Systems to study the demonstration of a commercial small modular reactor project, potentially in southeastern Idaho, by 2024 (Wash.) ... As part of OPALCO's 2013-2016 construction work plan, OPALCO's crew replaced 1.25 miles of direct-buried electric cable on Victorian Valley Road with new cable inside of a conduit system (Wash.) ... Longtime Lincoln civic leader Primo Santini was appointed to serve on the board of directors of the Placer County Water Agency (Calif.). NWPPA



SEPTEMBER, OCTOBER, AND NOVEMBER 2018

Please visit www.nwppa.org to view the full course descriptions for these and other courses.

NEW! CYBERSECURITY GOVERNANCE, RISK, AND COMPLIANCE WORKSHOP

Who Should Attend: Policy makers, including board members, commissioners, and general managers; IT managers and staff; engineers; operations staff; risk management personnel; and those who deal with cybersecurity policies and governance.

September 6, 2018—Portland, Ore.

SPILL PREVENTION, CONTROL, AND COUNTERMEASURES (SPCC)

Who Should Attend: All employees with environmental responsibilities, including supervisors and managers that oversee environmental programs. This includes employees that design or implement oil spill prevention plans and those involved in process, plant, construction, or stormwater discharges.

September 10, 2018—Anchorage, Alaska

ENVIRONMENTAL TASK FORCE MEETING

Who Should Attend: Utility environmental professionals (new and experienced), government agency staff, vendors, and anyone who is tasked with or interested in environmental issues, regulatory compliance or mitigation in the environmental arena of electric utilities.

September 11, 2018—Anchorage, Alaska

ONLINE — ENGINEERING WEBINAR SERIES: DESIGN AND FRAMING OF RISER POLES

Who Should Attend: Engineering personnel and others who would benefit from an understanding of current electric utility engineering principles and practices.

September 11, 2018—Online

NEW! SUPPLY CHAIN WORKSHOP

Who Should Attend: Those who work in or support the utility's supply chain functions, such as purchasing, inventory, materials management, warehousing, and operations personnel.

September 11-12, 2018—Spokane, Wash.

HAZWOPER 8-HOUR FIRST RESPONDER AWARENESS AND REFRESHER TRAINING FOR UTILITY PERSONNEL

Who Should Attend: This is required training for first responders who are likely to witness or discover a hazardous substance release and need to initiate an emergency response sequence by notifying the proper people; it is also for individuals who respond to releases of hazardous substances as part of the initial response for the purpose of protecting nearby persons, property, or the environment from the effects of the release.

September 12, 2018—Anchorage, Alaska

ELECTRIC UTILITY SYSTEM OPERATIONS

Who Should Attend: Any electric utility industry employee (utility or vendor) whose job performance will benefit from a basic understanding of the operations side of the utility business, including engineering, operations, safety, purchasing, information technology, regulatory and rates, customer service, public relations, legal, accounting, utility commissioners, and board members.

September 12-13, 2018—Spokane, Wash.

NORTHWEST COMMUNICATIONS & ENERGY INNOVATIONS CONFERENCE

Who Should Attend: Marketing, public relations, communications, energy services, renewable energy, and key accounts employees, as well as any employee and board member with an interest in these areas. For more information see page 6.

September 16-19, 2018—Coeur d'Alene, Idaho

RAISING YOUR ENERGY IQ 101

Who Should Attend: Utility employees who interact with customers or have the need to explain residential home energy consumption.

September 18-19, 2018—Vancouver, Wash.

NEW! POST-NIC WORKSHOP: SECRETS OF SOCIAL MEDIA: CLUES FOR CONNECTING WITH ELECTRIC UTILITY CUSTOMERS

Who Should Attend: Anyone interested in learning more about connecting and communicating with customers through social media. For more information see page 6.

September 19, 2018—Coeur d'Alene, Idaho

LEADERSHIP SKILLS #1: SITUATIONAL LEADERSHIP

Who Should Attend: Supervisors and managers, and employees who will be transitioning to a supervisory or managerial role in the future.

September 19-20, 2018—Boise, Idaho

ACCOUNTING & FINANCE FUNDAMENTALS FOR UTILITY PERSONNEL

Who Should Attend: Administrative professionals and anyone who wants to understand how each role in the utility impacts the budget and financial statement.

September 20-21, 2018—Boise, Idaho

HARDENING WINDOWS NETWORKS

Who Should Attend: Network, server, desktop, and security administrators and management-level individuals interested in this topic.

September 25-28, 2018—Vancouver, Wash.

LEADERSHIP SKILLS #3: UNDERSTANDING TEMPERAMENT AS AN EFFECTIVE SITUATIONAL LEADER

Who Should Attend: People managers with formalized leadership responsibilities for getting work done through others and who have already completed *Leadership Skills #1*.

September 26-27, 2018—Hermiston, Ore.

MONTANA ENGINEERING ROUNDTABLE

Who Should Attend: Engineering managers and staff from public electric utilities within Montana.

September 27-28, 2018—Missoula, Mont.

FOREMAN LEADERSHIP ACCELERATED PROGRAM PART 1

Who Should Attend: Foremen and crew leaders.

October 2-4, 2018—Portland, Ore.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATE LEVEL 3: ALL FOUR DAYS

Who Should Attend: Administrative assistants, executive assistants or employees in administrative or service-oriented roles.

October 2-5, 2018—Spokane, Wash.

DAY 1: ORGANIZATIONAL DYNAMICS, TEAMS AND DIVERSITY — October 2

DAY 2: PROJECT MANAGEMENT — October 3

DAY 3 - GETTING SUPPORT FOR IDEAS/PRESENTATION SKILLS — October 4

DAY 4 - PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT/SELF APPRAISALS/GOAL SETTING — October 5

ONLINE — ENGINEERING WEBINAR SERIES: PROFESSIONAL ETHICS FOR UTILITY PERSONNEL

Who Should Attend: Engineering personnel and others who would benefit from an understanding of current electric utility engineering principles and practices.

October 9, 2018—Online

LEADERSHIP SKILLS #4: HR BASICS AND BUILDING A MORE EFFECTIVE WORKPLACE

Who Should Attend: Supervisors and managers, and those employees who will be transitioning to a supervisor or manager role in the near future.

October 10-11, 2018—Roseville, Calif.

LABOR AND EMPLOYEE RELATIONS GROUP ANNUAL MEETING

Who Should Attend: Members of the NWPPA Labor and Employee Relations Group which includes general managers, operations managers, and labor relations and human resources professionals. Non-members may attend if they are part of a utility and are members of NWPPA.

October 10-12, 2018—Seattle, Wash.

SENIOR LEADERSHIP SKILLS SERIES SESSION 4: LEAD YOUR ORGANIZATION

Who Should Attend: General managers, directors, and experienced leaders of teams.

October 16-17, 2018—Whitefish, Mont.

LINEMAN SKILLS SERIES: AC TRANSFORMERS, ADVANCED THEORY, AND PRACTICAL APPLICATION

Who Should Attend: Journeyman linemen, foremen/supervisors, engineers, and those involved in planning, scheduling, and engineering operations for a utility.

October 17-18, 2018—Anchorage, Alaska

ENTERPRISE RISK MANAGEMENT: A SUCCESSFUL IMPLEMENTATION

Who Should Attend: Chief financial officers, senior-level accounting staff, auditors, general managers/CEOs, policymakers, and legal counsel. (Please note that *ERM: Adding Value to Your Organization* is not a prerequisite for this class.)

October 17-18, 2018—Vancouver, Wash.

NEW! PRE-C3s WORKSHOP: ALL ABOARD: SUPERVISORS' GUIDE TO ONBOARDING AND THEIR CRITICAL ROLE OF EMPLOYEE DEVELOPMENT

Who Should Attend: Customer service, credit, and collections managers, supervisors, and employees.

October 23, 2018—Vancouver, Wash.

BUDGET BASICS FOR UTILITIES

Who Should Attend: Entry-level and intermediate-level accounting staff, or anyone who is new to the budgeting process.

October 23, 2018—Spokane, Wash.

SUBSTATION SERIES: SUBSTATION TRANSFORMERS & LTC DIAGNOSTICS

Who Should Attend: Line and substation personnel, as well as engineers who have responsibility for distribution and transmission substations.

October 24, 2018—Bend, Ore.

EVALUATING CAPITAL PROJECTS

Who Should Attend: Utility accounting and finance personnel, and any employee who budgets for capital projects.

October 24, 2018—Spokane, Wash.

SITUATIONAL SELF LEADERSHIP

Who Should Attend: Individual contributors and team members seeking to be more productive and satisfied at work, and potential leaders who do not currently have direct reports. Anyone who reports to managers trained in Situational Leadership II.

October 24-25, 2018—Spokane, Wash.

3 Cs CONFERENCE: CUSTOMER SERVICE, CREDIT, AND COLLECTIONS

Who Should Attend: Customer service, credit, and collections managers, supervisors, and employees.

October 24-26, 2018—Vancouver, Wash.

METERING FOR LINEMEN

Who Should Attend: Journeyman linemen and other electrical workers who want a better understanding of revenue metering and the hazards associated while working with revenue meters for both single-phase and three-phase meters.

October 25, 2018—Bend, Ore.

TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

SUBSTATION SERIES: SUBSTATION BATTERY MAINTENANCE AND TESTING

Who Should Attend: Line and substation personnel, as well as engineers who are responsible for distribution and transmission substations.

October 25, 2018—Bend, Ore.

STAKING TECHNICIAN CERTIFICATION PROGRAM: UNDERGROUND LINE DESIGN AND SUBDIVISION LAYOUT

Who Should Attend: Staking engineers.

November 5-7, 2018—Bend, Ore.

WOMEN IN PUBLIC POWER CONFERENCE

Who Should Attend: Women in the power industry. For more information see page 3.

November 7-8, 2018—Portland, Ore.

SUBSTATION SERIES: PRINT READING AND ELECTRICAL CIRCUIT TROUBLESHOOTING TECHNIQUES

Who Should Attend: Lineman, substation personnel, and distribution engineers who have responsibility for the operation and maintenance of distribution and transmission substations.

November 7-8, 2018—Bend, Ore.

LEADERSHIP SKILLS #3: UNDERSTANDING TEMPERAMENT AS AN EFFECTIVE SITUATIONAL LEADER

Who Should Attend: People managers with formalized leadership responsibilities for getting work done through others and who have already completed *Leadership Skills #1*.

November 7-8, 2018—Truckee, Calif.

STAKING TECHNICIAN CERTIFICATION PROGRAM: JOINT USE AND MAKE READY SURVEYS

Who Should Attend: Staking technicians and engineers.

November 7-8, 2018—Bend, Ore.

LEADERSHIP SKILLS #4: HR BASICS AND BUILDING A MORE EFFECTIVE WORKPLACE

Who Should Attend: Supervisors and managers, and those employees who will be transitioning to a supervisor or manager role in the near future.

November 7-8, 2018—Hermiston, Ore.

STAKING TECHNICIAN CERTIFICATION PROGRAM: CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT ADMINISTRATION

Who Should Attend: Staking technicians and engineers.

November 8-9, 2018—Bend, Ore.

ONLINE — ENGINEERING WEBINAR SERIES: PRIMER ON CURRENT DEMAND-SIDE MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

Who Should Attend: Engineering personnel and others who would benefit from an understanding of current electric utility engineering principles and practices.

November 13, 2018—Online

STAKING TECHNICIAN CERTIFICATION PROGRAM: PHASE 1

Who Should Attend: Staking technicians and engineers.

November 13-16, 2018—Anchorage, Alaska

SUBSTATION SERIES: POWER SYSTEMS 103 - RELAY COMMISSIONING 1

Who Should Attend: Field technicians; new protection and control engineers; and other utility staff that would benefit from increased knowledge about field testing.

November 13-16, 2018—Shelton, Wash.

FOREMAN LEADERSHIP SKILLS #3: REDUCING CONFLICTS; COMMUNICATION AND CUSTOMER SERVICE

Who Should Attend: Foremen and crew leaders.

November 14-15, 2018—Boise, Idaho

UNBUNDLED COST OF SERVICE AND RATE DESIGN

Who Should Attend: Accounting and finance staff, policy makers, or any utility employee with an interest in ratemaking and/or cost of service analysis.

November 14-15, 2018—Seattle, Wash. **NWPPA**

2019 E&O Booth Sales Are Open

Exhibit space for the 2019 E&O Conference & Trade Show in Spokane, Wash., April 9-11, is still available. As of August 1, only 44 10X10 booth spaces remain after the presales during the 2018 trade show in April.

If you still need to purchase booth space for the 2019 trade show, please contact Taryn Johnson as soon as possible at taryn@nwppa.org or (360) 816-1446. Current booth sales will close on October 12, or sooner if all booths have been sold before then. **NWPPA**



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MORE POWERFUL TOGETHER:

Create Opportunities for Community Connections

By Megan McKoy-Noe

Do your consumers know that when public power teams up with them to tackle local needs, we are More Powerful Together?

More Powerful Together, NWPPA and Ruralite Services' regional consumer engagement effort, turns one in September. The communication tools, free to members of both organizations, focus on changing the way public power utilities connect with consumers. Four sets of resources are available, centered on how public power is local, innovative, expert, and driven.

Many utilities use editorials and ad templates. But these tools alone are not enough. The best way to spark consumer conversations is to take the More Powerful Together message into the community. Speak to local groups, connect at community events, feature local faces and stories, and be sure to align tools with your utilities' strategic planning.

Continue reading to learn how four communicators use More Powerful Together to create opportunities for powerful community connections.

Seek out service groups

Lassen Municipal Utility District in Susanville, Calif., features local faces on customized More Powerful Together ads in *Ruralite* magazine and social media. But they did not stop there. Public Relations Manager Theresa Phillips took the message to the streets.

"I put together a short presentation and offered to present it to our Rotary club," said Phillips, a Rotarian since 2015. "It's challenging to find presenters that can engage the group. Lucky for me, public power is always a hot topic."

Brief weekly programs are often in short supply for community service organizations such as Rotary International, Kiwanis, Lions, and Civitan International. Many club members are community leaders, a great target audience for the More Powerful Together message.

Phillips also presented at a women's networking group, and plans to share the message with the Susanville City Council, the Lassen County Board of Supervisors, and the Lassen County Chamber of Commerce, too.

"We have a ton of big projects that are on the horizon," said Phillips. "The More Powerful Together tools helped me reach the community and our customers."

Want to follow Phillips' lead? The latest batch of More Powerful Together tools includes an easy-to-customize PowerPoint template and speech explaining how public power is local, innovative, expert, and driven.

Connect at community events

Clatskanie Public Utility District shared the More Powerful Together message at popular summer events near Clatskanie, Ore., including the Columbia County Fair and Rodeo, Clatskanie Heritage Days, and Rainier Days in the Park.

The utility worked with Ruralite Services to create a custom More Powerful Together message to celebrate their 75th anniversary: More than history. A brighter future for all.

"The banner is eye-catching and has drawn people to our booth to look at our display of old insulators, photos, meter equipment, hotsticks, and street lights," said Customer Relations and Service Manager Sarah Johnson. "The More Powerful Together message and clean design is a powerful tool to help us look professional and inviting. It sparked conversations about our anniversary and

how things have changed during the past 75 years."

Banner templates are part of the More Powerful Together toolbox. Print ad templates can be modified and used as handouts for community events, featuring local efficiency rebates, community grants, and other utility-specific programs.

Feature local faces

Images are provided for materials, but matching messages with local faces is the best way to connect with the community.

To localize Lassen MUD ads, Phillips looks for consumers who are opinion leaders in the community and participate in Lassen MUD energy efficiency or educational programs.

For example, she paired a picture of consumer Jerry Will standing in front of his new solar array with the headline: More than opinions. Expertise.

"I saw the Expert message and immediately thought of Jerry," said Phillips. "Jerry installed one of the first solar arrays on our system. That photo was taken in 2010, but I love it!"

Another ad features Gary Bridges, a retired logger and community activist who sits on several local boards. Phillips





MORE THAN ONE VOICE. MANY.

I know my neighborhood. That's why Lassen MUD has an eye out for tree limbs growing too close to power for a limb to fall and leave me or my neighbors with voice matters. I call LMUD at (530) 257-4174 to report problems. You should, too. Using our voices as a group, we tackle hazards before damage is done.

We are public power.
We are **MORE POWERFUL TOGETHER.**

As a team, we are #MorePowerfulTogether. Get tips and report potential tree problems at www.lmud.org



MORE THAN OPINIONS. EXPERTISE.

While searching for tips on solar and net metering, it was hard to sort fact from opinion. I took a training break and called LMUD. My public power utility has a staff of trained and trustworthy energy experts. Working together, LMUD staff helped me become more of an expert about my solar power needs and options. I'll take expertise over opinions any day.

We are public power.
We are **MORE POWERFUL TOGETHER.**

Get expert renewable energy tips and find other ways we are #MorePowerfulTogether at lmud.org



Using local consumers such as Gary Bridges and Jerry Will localizes Lassen MUD's More Powerful Together ads.



Clatskanie PUD displayed their personalized More Powerful Together banner at last month's Columbia County Fair.

matched him with the message: More than one voice. Many.

"It's been fun matching customers with the topics," said Phillips. "Everyone has been happy to be featured. I even had a local restaurant owner come in the office the other day and ask how she can be in one of the ads!"

Plan to engage

NWPPA and Ruralite Services members have a suite of resources ready, including 12 sets of print and digital ads, six editorials, social media copy and videos, a consumer meeting speech, a PowerPoint template, and pop-up banner art.

Have you included these free resources in your 2019 marketing plan?

"The messages for the four themes are easily customized and focus on the core issues that all public utilities and cooperatives face," said Elecia Copenhaver, marketing and communications coordinator for Benton REA in Prosser, Wash.

Benton REA uses More Powerful Together print ads each month in newsletters and *Ruralite* magazine pages. A customized video has been shared on social media. Benton REA's Board of Trustees President Mike Freepons took the message a step further when he used parts of the provided speech template to engage members during the co-op's annual meeting in February.

"Our board of trustees really like the theme," said Copenhaver. "The messaging is timeless. If you choose to use

the materials, take advantage of as many as you can so your message is consistent."

In Eugene, Ore., Blachly-Lane Electric Member and Public Relations Manager Pam Spettel recommends comparing the consumer-research-based copy with a list of strategic messages you need to share with consumers.

"The research that has gone into these resources lets me know it is tested and will be effective with my members," said Spettel. "All of the pieces dovetail nicely with my overall strategic communications plan."

Get fresh ideas

Need more inspiration? On September 18, the Northwest Communications and Energy Innovations Conference in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, will feature a More Powerful Together best practices panel with Phillips and Spettel. Register for the event at <http://bit.ly/NWPPANIC>. You can also watch a best-practices video at Vimeo.com/Ruralite/MPTexamples.

Ready to engage? Download four sets of More Powerful Together resources at www.nwppa.org/MPT. **NWPPA**

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Internal Communications: SnoPUD Employees Key to Delivering on Organizational Mission

By Neil Neroutsos



Snohomish PUD's videos feature employees in various roles talking about their jobs and how they fit into the organization's goals.

When Snohomish PUD adopted a new set of strategic priorities in early 2017, it knew that engaging all of its employees in the process would be critical to its success.

The strategic priorities build off the utility's mission and cover five areas: Team PUD, Customer Experience, Delivering Now & For the Future, Responsible Cost & Fiscal Management, and Continual Improvement.

"Our employees are our ambassadors in the community, whether they're trimming trees, repairing fallen lines, answering customer calls, or speaking at the local Rotary Club," said PUD Director of Communications & Marketing Julie Cunningham. "In communications we love to focus on empowering them with information and providing the right tools so they can effectively bring their best possible service to our customers."

Getting the word out

To introduce the strategic priorities, the PUD's general manager, Craig Collar (now retired), held nearly a dozen town hall meetings with employees at

multiple sites. The meetings provided opportunities for leadership to elaborate on specific activities of focus within each priority. They also gave employees a way to engage in a dialogue directly with the general manager.

Safety, part of the Team PUD priority, was a top area of emphasis. The utility knew it could improve on its record. The message to employees? There's nothing worth doing while carrying out the work of the utility that should incur even a single injury.

To complement the town hall meetings, Corporate Communications looked at ways to create new strategies to better support the changing needs of the organization. The team initiated a series of stories in the weekly employee newsletter that connected directly to themes within one or more of the strategic priorities. Colored icons were developed to illustrate which area the story supported—progress in safety, for example, supports the priorities of Team PUD and Continual Improvement.

As it designed its outreach, the communications team staff knew it

needed to make messages relevant and reach employees through their preferred communications channels.

"We made it accessible and put it in multiple formats—reinforcing messages on our intranet site, in newsletters, and daily email updates and even on an electronic display board in our crew room," said PUD Senior Communications Designer Wendy Parris. "We wanted redundancy to make sure messages were heard, and we linked one communication channel back to another one to help tell our story."

The Corporate Communications team also realized new communications pieces could improve overall effectiveness in engaging employees. The team introduced two new communications pieces. The *District Daily* e-newsletter was created to offer quick updates and news for employees. Issued by email by 9:30 a.m. each weekday, it includes links to industry news stories, organizational updates and events, employee photos, and other timely information. It regularly includes things such as announcements about PUD health fairs, training opportunities, traffic alerts, and links to news stories about other Northwest utilities. Another piece, the *Deep Dive* publication, was created to address a single topic in greater detail for those employees who wanted in-depth analysis, including such topics as integrated resource plans, wholesale energy markets, and the Columbia River Treaty.

Short videos, produced in-house, offered another means to reinforce the strategic priorities and highlight work by employees throughout the organization. One video, for example, tells a compelling story of a near-death electrical accident involving a PUD employee. It supports the utility's emphasis on continual improvement in safety. Another video takes employees on a tour inside the vehicle maintenance shop, showing key components of utility line and service trucks. Whenever possible, these stories were supported in print and online employee publications through more detailed explanations, infographics, and interviews with key staff.

"As we developed videos we tried to strike a positive and fun tone by connecting with employees who were excited about their jobs and had good



The PUD developed a set of icons for its strategic priorities to help employees see how their work fit into the organization's mission.

SNOHOMISH MISSION:

The utility's strategic priorities were developed to support the overall organizational mission:



We will deliver power and water to our customers in a safe, sustainable and reliable manner while successfully navigating complex change in our industry. We accomplish this by empowering our teams to provide quality service to our community, prudently managing costs while investing for the future and striving to improve every day.



The District Daily provides quick organizational updates, industry news, photos, and fun factoids for employees throughout the utility.

stories to tell,” said PUD Communications & Marketing Consultant Krysta Rasmussen. “We used a variety of techniques, including drones for aerial shots, time-lapse video, and even underwater cameras, to show our fisheries work at a hydropower site.”

Measures of success

The new communications have helped support the new safety focus, which in turn has resulted in a substantial decrease in recordable accidents. During the past two years, in fact, the PUD reached its lowest level of accidents in 30 years.

In addition, the open rate for the *District Daily* e-newsletter consistently has hit 50 percent, which is noteworthy given that about half the utility's staff work in the field.

A complementary training effort also has proven successful. In 2017, the PUD launched a “Plan, Do, Check, Act” training program that looks to improve processes and efficiencies within the organization; this year more than two-thirds of the utility's staff will have completed the training. More than 26 continual improvement projects have been completed in the past 18 months.

The PUD's expanded communications have been well received by employees and PUD leadership. Staff have reported that they have a better understanding of the big picture context in which they work and a common source of key information. Gaining employee buy-in would have not been possible without the full support of the PUD's leadership and elected board.

NWPPA

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PUBLIC SAFETY FIRST: Tacoma Power Lowers Riffe Lake after New Earthquake Information Unearthed

By Monika Sundbaum

Tacoma Power's Cowlitz River Project in Lewis County, Wash., is nestled in the shadows of two majestic mountains. This grand backdrop serves as a constant reminder of nature's awesome power. But the grandeur comes with a price: the Project sits in an earthquake zone.

The Project is home to two dams, Mossyrock and Mayfield. Nearly 40 percent of the clean, renewable electricity produced by the utility is generated at Mossyrock Dam. The dam forms Riffe Lake, which, at full, is 23.5 miles long.

New information provided by the United States Geological Survey about earthquakes in the Pacific Northwest created a tough situation for Tacoma Power in 2017. A new seismic risk assessment indicated that the Mossyrock Dam spillway piers could potentially fail during a large earthquake. To ensure public safety, the utility voluntarily lowered the normal maximum reservoir elevation by 30 feet. This decision resulted in a significant financial impact to the

utility, along with having recreational and other ramifications.

Mossyrock Dam, the tallest in Washington state, is a 606-foot-tall, double-curvature arch dam with four radial arm spillway gates located in the middle of the arch. The spillway piers extend 90 feet upstream. With this height and geometry, the top of the dam, and thus the spillway piers, will experience approximately three times more acceleration than the base of the dam during an earthquake. While the dam itself is stable, if the spillway piers were to fail while the reservoir was full, the discharge through the damaged spillway could be more than 220,000 cubic feet per second (cfs), which would cause significant downstream flooding.

Although the probability of that event is very low, the utility decided to operate the reservoir 30 feet lower than the historic normal maximum while exploring potential long-term solutions. This would reduce the amount of water that could be released through the spillway to 60,000 cfs.

"No concrete arch dam has ever failed due to an earthquake, but in this case we are not talking about the main arch," said Chief Dam Safety Engineer Toby Brewer. "Instead, we are talking about the spillway piers, which are vulnerable. The probability of this happening is like getting struck by lightning, but the utility is unwilling to roll the dice."

"Public safety is our number one priority," said Generation Manager Chris Mattson. "We made the decision to lower the lake in order to limit the risk to the public downstream. We already keep the levels low in the winter, so these changes mainly impact a few months of the year."

In early 2017, the utility informed the public of the lower reservoir operating levels through public meetings, local media, and its website. The announcement generated extensive media coverage and widespread concern from the public.

"To adapt to the lower summer water level, we pulled together a team from across the utility to identify ways to mitigate the operational, recreational, cultural resources, and environmental impacts of this change," Mattson said.

Lemonade out of lemons

One of the challenges of losing 30 feet of elevation is the impact to summer recreation at Tacoma Power's two parks on Riffe Lake, Mossyrock and Taidnapam.

“This reservoir has always fluctuated, but now the exposed drawdown zone area is larger,” said Wildlife and Lands Manager Bret Forrester. “Because of this, two of our four boat launches became inoperable, one needed modification, and we lost one swim area and needed to relocate the other.”

Tacoma Power constructed a new swim area, which included an ADA-accessible parking lot and trail to the area, and made improvements to the boat launch at Mossyrock Park. These modifications are receiving rave reviews from visitors. Taidnapam Park has one boat launch that is operable at lower elevations. Since the drawdown began in 2017, Tacoma Power has continued to see fairly consistent numbers of visitors to the parks.

“We are monitoring the drawdown’s effects and will determine if anything else needs to be done to address the recreational impacts,” Forrester said. “We’re committed to figuring that out and having data to support those determinations. In the meantime, the supervisors at our parks are adding activities to help visitors continue to have a fantastic time, such as movie nights and scavenger hunts.”

Balancing complexities

Lowering Riffe Lake has been a balancing act between the interests of many stakeholders.

“There are countless complexities in this industry,” Forrester said. “Nothing is an isolated event; this decision affects everything—energy and capacity, fisheries and habitat, cultural resources, and recreation. There are a lot of tough decisions and balancing of opinions required, but it’s not black and white—there are lots of shades of gray.”

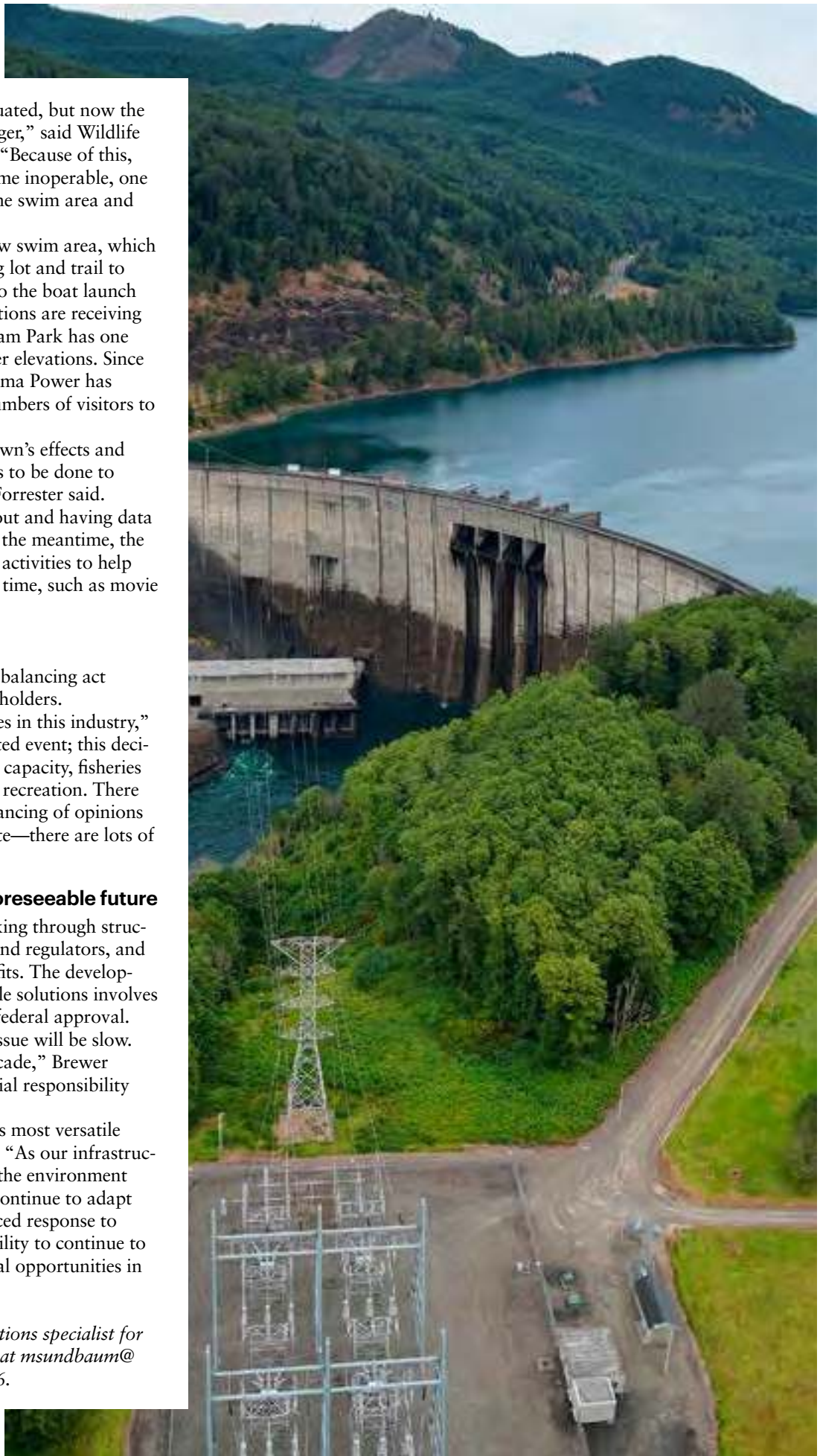
New normal—at least for the foreseeable future

Tacoma Power is currently working through structural evaluations with consultants and regulators, and then plans to evaluate seismic retrofits. The development and implementation of possible solutions involves substantial analysis, planning, and federal approval.

“The process to remediate this issue will be slow. We’re looking well into the next decade,” Brewer said. “Ultimately, there’s a huge social responsibility entrusted in us to do what’s right.”

“Hydropower is still our region’s most versatile renewable resource,” Mattson said. “As our infrastructure ages and we learn more about the environment we operate in, we will be asked to continue to adapt and evolve. I’m proud of our balanced response to this particular challenge and our ability to continue to provide some of the best recreational opportunities in western Washington.” **NWPPA**

Monika Sundbaum is a communications specialist for Tacoma Power. She can be reached at msundbaum@cityoftacoma.org or (253) 502-8636.



Lassen Announces Scholarship Winners

Lassen Municipal Utility District (Susanville, Calif.) happily announced that **Gwyneth Stubbs** and **John Riedel** are the recipients of the 2018 LMUD Community Scholarships.

Stubbs and Riedel are part of Lassen High School's graduating class of 2018. Both were in the top 25 of their class and graduated with honors.

LMUD's scholarship program is funded through the utilities Public Benefits program. Each year, two \$1,500 scholarships are awarded to students who attend school in the district's service territory and whose parents or guardians reside in a home served by LMUD.

Congratulations to both students! LMUD is proud to be able to contribute to their academic success. **NWPPA**



LMUD General Manager Doug Smith and Gwyneth Stubbs.



LMUD Board President Fred Nagel and John Riedel.

Milton-Freewater Names New Superintendent

On July 1, **Mike Watkins** became the new electric superintendent for Milton-Freewater's (Ore.) electric utility, City Light and Power. Watkins has been with the city 23 years, both with the electric utility and, most recently, as the head of the Community Development Department.

The previous electric superintendent, **Rick Rambo**, retired after a 34-year career with City Light and Power, which is the oldest municipal electric utility in Oregon. **NWPPA**

PNGC Power Selects Interim CEO

PNGC Power (Portland, Ore.) announced on July 11 that it has selected **Greg Delwiche** as its interim CEO.

Delwiche has an extensive electric utility background with over 30 years in the industry. He joined the Bonneville Power Administration in 1992, and during his time there held four executive positions, most recently as deputy administrator. Delwiche brings significant experience from those leadership roles, where he had oversight of a broad portfolio that spanned generation and power supply to fish and wildlife. Before Delwiche joined BPA, he held leadership positions in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Northwestern Division Reservoir Control Center. Currently, Delwiche is a senior strategic consultant with HDR Engineering in Portland, Ore.

"Greg has a proven track record of leadership in the industry and we're pleased that he is joining us," said PNGC Power Board Chair **Roman Gillen**. "He brings a wealth of skills by virtue of his years at BPA, especially as BPA's deputy administrator. We are confident Greg will help us navigate this time of transition, and continue to build on the successes of PNGC Power."

Delwiche started with PNGC Power on July 16; the search for a permanent CEO is expected to take three to six months.

NWPPA

Frye Named as WECC CEO

The Western Electricity Coordinating Council Board of Directors announced the selection of **Melanie M. Frye** as WECC's new president and chief executive officer. Frye joined WECC in 2007 and most recently served as WECC's vice president of Reliability Planning and Performance Analysis. The CEO vacancy was a result of **Jim Robb** stepping down to assume the role of president and chief executive officer for the North American Electric Reliability Corporation.

"After an extensive nationwide search with outreach across the broad stakeholder community and among industry leaders nationwide, we unanimously agreed to offer the position to Melanie Frye with full confidence in her ability to lead WECC in the years ahead," said WECC Board Chair **Kristine Hafner**. "The board wishes to thank **Steven Goodwill** for his excellent work as interim president and CEO during the recruitment, as well as **Sandy Mooy** who assumed the interim general counsel position."

In addition to her responsibilities for WECC's technical and analysis functions, including events analysis, situation awareness, reliability planning and assessments, performance assessments, and standards development, Frye spearheaded and co-authored WECC's Strategic and Operational Planning Process that ensured alignment with the ERO Enterprise Long-Term Strategy. As a member of the executive team, she also created the framework for WECC's Invented Future and shaped the transformation within the organization. **NWPPA**

Rick Dyer Retires from Clark

Clark Public Utilities (Vancouver, Wash.) Director of Finance **Rick Dyer** retired on June 30 after 34 years in that role. During his tenure Dyer oversaw a transition to AMR meters, computerization of customer information, construction of the River Road Generation Plant, and countless industry milestones. When he started, the utility had 86,000 electric customers and a budget of around \$80 million; today, Clark Public Utilities serves nearly 200,000 customers and Dyer oversaw an operating budget of nearly \$500 million.



Under his leadership, rates have remained steady and affordable and the last rate increase was in 2011. Through careful management and fastidious attention to detail in all accounting and finance processes, the utility has maintained a stellar audit history and credit rating. Additionally, customer satisfaction has led the industry and the utility has been ranked highest in its class by J.D. Power for 11 years in a row, since the first year of its eligibility.

He and his wife will now embark on a life of relaxing retirement with their 24 grandchildren. When not with family, Dyer intends to spend time hunting, traveling, and enjoying the outdoors. **NWPPA**

Bear Prairie Promoted to GM

The Idaho Falls City Council voted unanimously to appoint **Bear Prairie** as the new general manager of Idaho Falls Power during the June 28 city council meeting.

Prairie has worked for Idaho Falls Power since 2010 where he has served as the assistant general manager. With more than 20 years of experience in the energy industry, Prairie started his career in energy at the Idaho Power Company in Boise. He has extensive experience and expertise in commodity trading and management of a broad range of energy products.

“As I examined the range of available options for filling the vacancy, a few things quickly became clear to me,” said Mayor **Rebecca Casper**. “First and perhaps foremost, in his role as assistant general manager for IFP, Mr. Prairie has been professionally prepared to step in and lead the utility. He is eminently qualified to lead any energy utility in the county and we are very fortunate that he has chosen to continue his career here with us.”

With his appointment, Prairie will take over control of Idaho Falls Power from current general manager, **Jackie Flowers**, who departed to assume leadership of Tacoma Public Utilities in Washington. Her last day with Idaho Falls Power was July 20. **NWPPA**



John Brown Honored for 20 Years

During the June 25 Douglas County PUD Commission meeting, Commissioners **Ronald E. Skagen**, **Molly Simpson**, and **Aaron J. Viebrock** awarded Property Supervisor **John Brown** with his 20-year service award at the District’s East Wenatchee, Wash., office.

Brown thanked the commission and said, “I appreciate the opportunity the District has given me. My department might not be the nuts and bolts keeping the lights on, but we have a good purpose to serve and get to do fun work.” **NWPPA**



(L-R) Aaron Viebrock, John Brown, and Ronald Skagen.

Jeff Smith Retires from Chelan

Chelan PUD (Wenatchee, Wash.) said goodbye to Managing Director of District Services **Jeff Smith**. Smith’s retirement became effective on July 1 after 30 years with the district.

Smith has been a longtime community volunteer and served on many boards ranging from the Washington State Apple Blossom Festival to the Wenatchee School Board. He has served as a member of Chelan PUD’s Senior Management team and was described by PUD General Manager **Steve Wright** as the heart and soul of the PUD. Commissioner **Dennis Bolz** said Smith will be difficult to replace. **NWPPA**

HydroVision Honors Janet Herrin

Bonneville Power Administration Chief Operating Officer **Janet Herrin** was one of three women recognized by their peers on June 27 during the Women with Hydro Vision luncheon, which took place as part of HydroVision International 2018 in Charlotte, N.C.

Herrin was named COO of BPA in 2016, following an 11-year tenure as the senior vice president of River Operations and Dam Safety with the Tennessee Valley Authority. In her role at BPA, Herrin—a registered professional engineer—is responsible for power and transmission services; environment, fish, and wildlife; customer support; and information technology. She also oversees BPA’s new Business Transformation Office and serves as a senior advisor to the U.S. Department of Energy.

Now in its fifth year, the Women with Hydro Vision awards program was designed to honor the most influential women in hydropower for their accomplishments and contributions to the industry. **NWPPA**

APPA Selects Skagen for Executive Board

Douglas PUD (East Wenatchee, Wash.) Commissioner **Ron Skagen** has been appointed to serve on the American Public Power Association Executive Board. Skagen previously served on the APPA Board of Directors as one of only two representatives to Region 9 which includes Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, and Washington.

In announcing the appointment, Douglas PUD General Manager **Gary Ivory** congratulated Skagen and said, “This is a big achievement. It speaks highly of your steady, respected leadership in the industry. It is a great opportunity for both you and Douglas PUD.”

Skagen will serve as one of nine executives at the head of this national public power organization with over 2,000 public power member utilities.

“I’m honored to be chosen to serve on the APPA Executive Board,” said Skagen. “I’m looking forward to learning more and being pushed to a higher level by the other utility industry leaders on the board. I appreciate that Douglas PUD has always encouraged commissioners and staff to grow and been given opportunities to improve. It’s a part of who we are.”

Skagen took office as commissioner for Douglas PUD in January 2007 and is currently president of the board. He was also president of the Washington Public Utility Districts Association in 2017-2018. **NWPPA**



EWEB Earns National Safety Award

The premier water utility trade association in the United States has recognized EWEB’s (Eugene, Ore.) impressive safety record and proactive approach to implementing best practices for employee safety and health programs as one of the best in the nation.

The American Water Works Association presented the Wendell R. LaDue Safety Award to Chief Water Engineering & Operations Officer **Mel Damewood** and EWEB Commissioner **John Simpson** at its annual convention in mid-June. The scientific and educational trade group includes more than 3,900 utilities that supply roughly 80 percent of the nation’s drinking water.

“I really want to stress that this is an award earned by all the employees at EWEB,” Damewood said. “Staff has made safety our primary cultural attribute, and I’m proud to be a part of the safety culture here at EWEB.”

Evaluation of award nominees includes a review of a utility’s safety record over the past five years; safety and health program best practices; the scope of systemic safety training initiatives at all levels; and the breadth of safety culture throughout the organization. **NWPPA**

Officers Elected to EN Executive Board

The Energy Northwest Executive Board elected officers at its public meeting at the end of June in Portland, Ore.

Sid Morrison, a former legislator, will continue in his role as chair of the board; Mason County PUD No. 1 (Shelton, Wash.) Commissioner **Jack Janda** will continue to serve as vice chair; Mason County PUD No. 3 (Shelton, Wash.) Commissioner **Linda Gott** will serve as board secretary; and Grant County PUD (Ephrata, Wash.) Commissioner **Terry Brewer** will serve as assistant secretary. All will serve one-year terms effective immediately.

The executive board has 11 members: five elected from the board of directors, three appointed by the board of directors from outside Energy Northwest, and the remaining three appointed by the governor of Washington. The executive board sets the policies that govern the operations of the organization.

NWPPA

SMUD Receives National Award

The Sacramento Municipal Utility District in California received an American Public Power Association Community Service Award at the American Public Power Association’s national conference in New Orleans, La. This award recognizes “good neighbor” activities that demonstrate the commitment of the utility and its employees to the community.

SMUD has worked to make life better for the Sacramento community for more than 70 years by keeping its customers at the heart of everything it does. The utility has a variety of community programs. SMUD Cares is a program through which employees can give back—monetarily or by volunteering time or skills to help in the community. In 2017, the utility rolled out the Shine Sponsorship Program to build community alliances; enhance and revitalize neighborhoods; and support community partners. Also, SMUD’s Powering Futures Scholarships offer \$60,000 in college scholarships to up to 21 local students. **NWPPA**

MEA Members to See Rate Decrease

Matanuska Electric Association’s (Palmer, Alaska) typical member (using approximately 696 kWh of electricity) can expect to see a total decrease of about 0.54 percent (or \$0.79/month) to their overall bill as a result of third quarter adjustments to the base and cost of power adjustment (COPA) rates, effective July 1, 2018.

The MEA Board of Directors voted on May 14, 2018, to authorize an increase in base rates of 2.4 percent, which was recently approved by the Regulatory Commission of Alaska. In addition to the base rate adjustment, MEA has requested a reduction of 4.9 percent to the quarterly COPA rate, pending RCA approval.

Under the terms of rules set by the RCA, MEA is allowed on a quarterly basis to file for limited increases or decreases in base rates, provided the adjustments stay within certain financial parameters established by the RCA. The COPA rate fluctuates quarterly based on current fuel and purchased power costs.

NWPPA

OTEC Announces Three Promotions

Susie Snyder, Nini Valerio, and Charlie Tracy have all moved up at Oregon Trail Electric Cooperative in Baker City, Oregon.

Snyder was named the supervisor of energy programs and has been instrumental in growing OTEC's energy efficiency programs by offering new innovative solutions to expand service offerings. At the same time, she developed and implemented highly effective ways to educate, train, and communicate with employees and members.

Valerio was named the cooperative's marketing and member services coordinator and has brought innovation to the member services team through social media, advertising, website building, and program upgrades. She has made countless process improvements, which have resulted in multiple increased efficiencies within the department.

Tracy moved into the director of engineering position after a total of 13 years as a systems engineer for the cooperative. During that time, Tracy spearheaded multiple major projects, which included transmission design and substation construction. OTEC General Manager and Chief Executive Officer **Les Penning** said Tracy has been the anchor point for the cooperative's focus on accessing innovative technology in renewable energy and how its future may be shaped and impacted in areas like power supply, battery storage, and electric vehicles. **NWPPA**



Susie Snyder



Nini Valerio



Charlie Tracy

Franklin Energizes New Transformer

On June 12, Franklin PUD began providing customers additional electric power from the Foster Wells substation in Pasco, Wash. The project added a third transformer bay and five additional feeders adding 28 megawatts of energy to Franklin PUD's electric system. The total cost of the Foster Wells expansion was \$2.5 million.

Franklin PUD's substation electricians and meter/relay crews performed all the electrical control work for the substation, while contractor Power City Electric, Inc. performed the civil work. Construction began on January 2, 2018, and Franklin PUD began serving customers on June 12, 2018, after testing and energizing the system.

The substation addition will provide more capacity to serve customers in the northeast corner of Pasco, an area focused heavily on agriculture and food processing. **NWPPA**

SVP Announces Scholarship Recipients

Silicon Valley Power (Calif.), the City of Santa Clara's municipal electric utility, continues to invest in a sustainable future for Santa Clara through its annual scholarship awards program. For 13 years, the program has recognized rising students pursuing careers in energy services, electric utilities, and public power. Three exceptional student recipients have been recognized this year for their academic achievements and impact on the community, receiving \$5,000 scholarships from SVP.

The 2018 winners are **Ismael Laymoun**, a student at Mission College; **Rafael Tolosa**, a recent graduate from Wilcox High School; and **James Wang**, an electrical engineering and environmental science student at Santa Clara University.

On July 10, the recipients were recognized at the City of Santa Clara City Council meeting. To date, SVP has supported 45 local students through the scholarship program, creating a pipeline of future leaders for Santa Clara and the utility field.

"The utility industry is changing rapidly, and passionate individuals like these students will play an important role in the development of new, innovative solutions," said SVP Chief Electric Utility Officer **John Roukema**. "This year's awardees demonstrate a vision for improving the community through energy sector developments." **NWPPA**



*(L-R) 2018 Scholarship Recipients
Ismael Laymoun and Rafael Tolosa.
(Not pictured: James Wang.)*

Tacoma Begins Line Replacement Project

For 92 years, four electric towers have stood in Henderson Bay holding the lines that carry power to Tacoma, Wash., from the Cushman Dam. Last month, Tacoma Power began construction to replace those towers with one steel pole near the Purdy Sand Spit. The project supports the utility's focus on providing reliable service.

The work will require several large barges and cranes to install the new pole and remove the old towers. Crews will also install two temporary poles to hold the power lines away from the construction area.

"Working in a marine environment around a heavily traveled highway makes this a highly complex project," said Tacoma Power Project Manager **James Blessing**. "Our goal is to complete the work as quickly and safely as possible while minimizing impacts to the people who live, work, and drive in this area."

Peninsula Light Company relies on the lines to serve its customers; Tacoma Power does not anticipate the project will impact electric service. Construction will likely run through the end of September. **NWPPA**

ECI Announces New CEO

Electrical Consultants, Inc. announced that long-time employee **Bruce J. LaMeres, P.E., PMP**, has been named chief executive officer of the firm. He assumes the role from **Richard L. McComish**, who remains the president of ECI as well as president/CEO of the EPC services subsidiary.



"The CEO position requires strong, visionary leadership and unwavering focus on the growth and success of the company," McComish said. "I am confident that Bruce embodies these qualities and is the right choice to lead ECI into the future."

With over 25 years at ECI, LaMeres has a rich background in all aspects of transmission and substation engineering, offering clients unique insights in planning and executing sophisticated, multi-discipline, multi-facility power delivery projects. As a member of the board of directors and in his prior role as ECI's chief operating officer, he led company initiatives to encourage leadership development, establish company standards and policies, and transition the firm to partial employee ownership through establishment of an ESOP.

Electrical Consultants, Inc. is a U.S. top 10 T&D power delivery consultant. Visit www.electricalconsultantsinc.com for more information. **NWPPA**

Senstar Introduces FiberPatrol FP1150

Senstar is pleased to announce the FiberPatrol FP1150, the newest addition to its fiber-optic perimeter intrusion detection line. The dual-channel FP1150 accurately detects and locates intrusion attempts for up to 6.2 miles or 3.1 miles per side in a platform that is more compact, more highly integrated, and more rugged than previous generations.

The FP1150 enhances the market-leading capabilities of the Senstar's FiberPatrol line by extending the operational temperature range to 122°F, making the system more robust by using solid-state disk drives and integrating previously external optical modules—all while shrinking the system into a single 4U rack-mount enclosure and adding lower-cost options for shorter perimeters.

Senstar's fiber-optic technology features low-nuisance alarm rates; distinguishes between real threats and environmental disturbances; provides true detection of simultaneous events; offers cut immune configuration options; requires no power or data infrastructure in the field; and is EMI and lightning immune, making it intrinsically safe for explosive atmospheres.

Senstar has been safeguarding people, places, and property with the world's largest portfolio of perimeter intrusion detection sensors for over 35 years. For more information, visit www.senstar.com, www.YouTube.com/SenstarCorp, or www.twitter.com/SenstarCorp. **NWPPA**

SPIDAstudio Platform Released

SPIDA Software, the first structure management system for utilities and the industry leader in structural analysis software, is excited to introduce SPIDAstudio, a next-generation cloud-based platform that bundles together SPIDA's powerful pole analysis capabilities, central storage of SPIDAcad designs, and SPIDAdmin Asset Management software.

Supporting the industry's commitment to infrastructure initiatives, SPIDAstudio moves the heavy-lifting of structural analysis to a cloud-based platform. From one pole to a utility's entire overhead system, SPIDAstudio provides the horsepower needed to quickly analyze overhead infrastructure models in minutes, and then centrally stores them for review and retrieval. SPIDAstudio is equipped to handle a variety of projects such as system-hardening initiatives, broadband expansion projects, or simply augmenting design tools. Additionally, SPIDAstudio interconnects with other enterprise tools, such as GIS and Graphic Work Design to enhance and streamline existing processes.

Serving the electric and telecommunication industries since 2007, SPIDA Software's cost-effective structure management system is a unique platform developed to create a digital twin of utility overhead systems and a centralized portal for the coordination of activities including joint use and engineering. For more information, visit www.spidasoftware.com. **NWPPA**

OSI Holds Record-Breaking Conference

Open Systems International, Inc., a provider of high-performance operations technology solutions to utilities worldwide, recently hosted its 20th consecutive annual worldwide user conference, OpenForum18™, at the Aria Resort in Las Vegas, Nev. The event provided numerous opportunities for the rapidly growing OSI community—comprised of current and prospective customers, industry consultants, solutions partners, and key OSI technical and management staff—to network, exchange ideas, and gain an exclusive look at OSI's detailed product road map. This year's conference drew more than 650 attendees from 150 organizations, making it not only the largest in OSI history, but the largest of any such event in the OT industry.

OSI founder and CEO **Bahman Hoveida** commenced OpenForum18 with a keynote address where he provided a thorough corporate update; OSI's strategic direction, business, and development milestones of the past year; and an analysis of market drivers and industry headwinds.

Throughout the subsequent three days of the conference, OSI technical experts delivered detailed insight about product direction and road maps via presentations and tightly focused breakout sessions dedicated to SCADA, generation, transmission, distribution, and cybersecurity, among other pertinent topics.

Open Systems International (www.osii.com) provides open, state-of-the-art, and high-performance automation solutions to utilities worldwide. **NWPPA**

Homac Connectors Expand Availability



After months of preparatory work, 3D renderings of more than 3,000 Homac® connectors have been loaded into the Substation Design Suite™ library by SBS, giving CAD designers a powerful new tool for modeling their substation projects. Homac is a brand of Thomas & Betts, a member of the ABB Group. The library entries include a variety of connectors ranging up to 500-kV capacity.

The Substation Design Suite, a product of Spatial Business Systems, Inc., is available to users of Autodesk Inventor and AutoCAD Electrical software. Inventor with SDS allows electrical designers and EPCs to pull 3D CAD objects into a 3D virtual environment for substation projects. AutoCAD Electrical users will now benefit from a vastly wider selection of established connector models to help speed the design process.

Once a design is completed, the software can produce a bill of materials for the project that includes part numbers and specifications for each item pulled from the design library.

ABB is a pioneering technology leader in electrification products, robotics and motion, industrial automation, and power grids. For more information, visit www.abb.com. More information is available on Homac connectors at www-public.tnb.com/pub/en/node/532. **NWPPA**

Zac Yanez Joins EES Consulting

EES Consulting has hired **Zac Yanez** as its newest project manager. Yanez brings 17 years of experience and a strong utility, economic, and engineering background to EES.

Yanez leverages strong analytical expertise to support financial studies and regulatory research with EES. Prior to joining EES, he held several positions within the utility industry in both a public utility and an investor-owned utility. His background spans operations, regulatory policy analysis and support, resource acquisition, resource evaluation, conservation planning, resource portfolio planning and optimization, as well as economic and financial analysis. His varied background provides a unique perspective and a holistic understanding of utility issues.

He holds a B.B.A. in finance from the University of Texas at Austin.

EES is a multidisciplinary professional engineering and management consulting firm that provides a broad array of services to clients. For more information, visit www.eesconsulting.com. **NWPPA**

Hammond Joins FCS GROUP

FCS GROUP is excited to announce that former city manager and utility director **Bob Hammond** has joined the firm. Hammond offers over 30 years of public service experience in a variety of technical and management disciplines, including overseeing engineering and operations of electric, water, wastewater, street, and stormwater utilities. He also has experience related to large capital project management and general government executive management. He has developed and nurtured strong professional peer relationships, serving on many public service trade association boards and committees. Hammond was most recently engaged as the City of Richland's electric utility director.



Hammond will serve as an FCS GROUP executive consultant in support of our utility finance practice, as well as assisting with market research, business development, and asset management. Contact him at either RobertH@fcsgroup.com or (509) 440-2803.

FCS GROUP, established in 1988, provides utility rate and fee consulting; asset management consulting; financial planning and analysis; and economic services to public sector clients inclusive of city and county governments, municipal corporations, ports, special purpose districts, and state agencies. For more details, visit www.fcsgroup.com or call (425) 867-1802. **NWPPA**

NEEA Releases Annual Report

The Northwest Energy Efficiency Alliance has released its 2017 Annual Report: Progress through Partnership. The report highlights regional accomplishments and market transformation results from the third year of the alliance's 2015-2019 Business Plan.

"Four years ago, NEEA's board of directors created a Business Plan based on the region's collective vision for Northwest market transformation. Looking back over the alliance's 2017 accomplishments, it's clear that this vision is becoming a reality," said **Susan Stratton**, NEEA's executive director. "Now more than ever, I am humbled by the work that this region accomplishes by working in partnership to ensure a strong, resilient energy future for Northwest utility customers."

Working in partnership, the region's utilities and energy efficiency organizations have created a robust pipeline of energy-efficient technologies; built a portfolio of over 20 electric and natural gas market transformation programs; launched large and comprehensive regional building stock assessments; and created tools and resources to accelerate the adoption of energy efficiency across the Northwest.

NEEA is an alliance of more than 140 Northwest utilities and energy efficiency organizations working on behalf of more than 13 million energy consumers. NEEA's 2017 Annual Report is available to the public at neea.org/annualreport. **NWPPA**

August Recess Means Opportunity to Advance Agenda

By Trevor Pearson



While the dog days of summer unfold in D.C. and across the country, a hefty to-do list is piling up for Congress. A new fiscal year, November elections, and end of the legislative term all loom as a string of deadlines Congress must navigate.

Many items important to public power in the Northwest are intertwined with the major bills and priorities Congress has on the agenda for the busy fall ahead. August recess, when senators and representatives are back home meeting with constituents, is an opportune time for NWPPA members to connect with their federal representatives and weigh in on these important issues. To help with that, here is an update on the top six issues NWPPA has identified for focus based on the upcoming Congressional calendar and legislative agenda.

1. Hydropower licensing reform

NWPPA has supported legislation to make the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission the lead agency for hydro licensing and to improve the timeliness of the process. H.R.3043, “the Hydropower Modernization Act” by Rep. Cathy McMorris Rodgers (R–Wash.) has passed the House but is still pending in the Senate. There are limited legislative vehicles on the horizon to advance this important legislation, but NWPPA appreciates the work that has been done and continues to encourage Senate action on the bill.

2. Pole attachments

Senate Commerce Committee Chairman John Thune (R–S.D.) has introduced a bipartisan bill aimed at streamlining broadband expansion by regulating pole attachment

requirements. NWPPA members support the development of broadband and high-speed internet in rural areas, but insist that it be done safely. This requires on-the-ground coordination with local utilities to safely integrate the communications equipment attached to utility-owned poles. Sen. Thune’s bill, S.3157, the STREAMLINE Small Cell Deployment Act, would overrule the local control of poles owned by not-for-profit utilities and impose a federal top-down, one-size-fits-all process. NWPPA opposes any legislation which erodes local control and compromises important infrastructure.

3. Endangered Species Act reform

Proposals to reform the Endangered Species Act have been unveiled in both the House and Senate and may see committee hearings over the next few months. While ESA reform can be controversial, the direct impact that regulations have on the energy and utility industry have led NWPPA to advocate for a measured, balanced approach that takes into consideration the economic impacts of environmental regulation while balancing the need for robust species conservation. Consistent with NWPPA’s resolution on the ESA, the Association has endorsed H.R. 6360, the PREDICTS Act, which would prevent the addition of new conservation requirements after a project developer and resource agency have reached an agreement on conservation measures. This is also referred to as a “no surprises” policy. NWPPA also supports policies that would encourage and take into account voluntary conservation measures and local and state involvement. Both issues were addressed in legislation that was introduced last month.

4. Reject proposals to sell PMA transmission assets

NWPPA, supporters in Congress, and other stakeholders have so far been successful in pushing back on repeated proposals by the administration to sell the transmission assets of the power marketing administrations. A perennial line item in the president's budget request, the proposal to sell the assets, also appeared in the administration's government reorganization plan released in June. The PMAs are critical to maintaining low-cost rates for customers. Selling off their transmission assets would only raise rates. NWPPA strongly opposes any effort to divest PMA assets or require federal power to be sold at market rates.

5. Protect the Rural Utility Service Cushion of Credit program

The Rural Utility Service is a critical program for rural cooperatives. The Cushion of Credit program within the RUS provides a valuable financing tool for rural public utilities that allows them to earn 5-percent interest on funds set aside for RUS loan repayment. A provision within the Senate Farm Bill (S.3042) would reduce the interest earned to a fluctuating Treasury average (2.75 percent as of July 16) and eventually phase the program out. The House Farm Bill does not include this provision. The two chambers will need to iron out differences before they vote on a final bill this fall. NWPPA strongly supports the RUS as a whole and opposes any policy changes that would weaken the program or its effectiveness as a financing option for rural utilities.

6. Restore advance refunding of municipal bonds

NWPPA and other stakeholders were successful in advocacy efforts to maintain the tax-exempt status of municipal bonds in the tax reform bill. However, Congress eliminated the ability to use advance refunding to refinance municipal bonds. A technical corrections bill expected in the lame duck session may be an opportunity to reconsider this policy. NWPPA strongly supports the restoration of this critically important financing tool.

A look ahead

With a busy schedule and multiple deadlines ahead, Congress has their work cut out for them. Combining a successful Washington Rally in April and multiple letters and other outreach campaigns, NWPPA has had an impactful year in federal advocacy. Continued engagement by NWPPA members with our federal representatives will help keep the issues most important to public power top of mind and in the mix of Congressional priorities slated for action this fall. **NWPPA**

Trevor W. Pearson is principal at Meguire Whitney LLC, NWPPA's Washington, D.C., consulting firm. He can be reached at trevor@meguirewhitney.com.

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HERE COMES THE SUN!

OPALCO Community Solar's a Big Win for Members

By Suzanne Olson

Orcas Power & Light Cooperative (OPALCO) has a vision of sustainable, resilient, and energy-efficient communities for the 20 islands it serves in the north-west corner of Washington state. With the completion of its first community solar project, OPALCO has taken the first step toward realizing its vision. In addition to the immediate benefits for the members who subscribed, the 504-kW array provides a local power supply in case of emergency and is part of a long-range strategy to keep rates lower for members as market power costs rise.

Community solar isn't a new concept, but for OPALCO there's more at stake. OPALCO is dependent on power provided by the Pacific Northwest Generating Cooperative (primarily hydropower), generated on the mainland through the Bonneville Power Administration, and transmitted via submarine cables to the islands. What happens when a car accident on the mainland takes the power out? Traditionally, islanders have lit their oil lamps, dusted off the Scrabble board, and waited it out. However, the current generation of islanders and businesses increasingly depend on power and an internet connection to keep their doors open and stay afloat. The impact of power (and communication) outages to the rural communities that OPALCO serves has huge consequences for public safety and economic viability.

OPALCO opened its first community solar project up for member investment on March 21, 2018, and sold more than 10 percent of the project in the first 24 hours. By May 4, all 6,720 units of the project (one unit equals 75W of the 504-KW-DC array) were subscribed at \$150/unit and 272 co-op members had paid for the project in advance. The total

member investment equaled \$1,008,000. The solar array was constructed this summer by Puget Sound Solar and began production on July 31. Member investors will begin to see monthly credits on their power bills beginning in September with an approximate seven-year simple payback and a 20-year project term.

This first community solar project—the biggest community solar project in Washington state at the time it was built—is located on about 3.6 acres at an OPALCO substation on Decatur Island, an outer island with no ferry service and a population of less than 50 full-time residents. OPALCO chose this site primarily because of its proximity to a main feeder from the mainland. The available space and orientation are ideal for the solar array, and there is room to integrate a 500-kW vanadium-flow battery storage installation that was funded by a \$1 million grid modernization matching grant from Washington state's Clean Energy Fund. The battery bank will provide storage (without line loss) for the solar production, and give OPALCO the ability to improve load shape, absorb sudden spikes in energy demand, and back up critical substation and fiber-optic systems. At the same time as the site was being prepared for the solar array, OPALCO updated the 1950-era substation and BPA constructed a second tap to provide a redundant route for power to Orcas Island.

Contracting

Puget Sound Solar was selected through an RFP process as the contractor on the project, with a team led by Michiel "Mac" Zuidweg. Although PSS has built many big solar projects in the region, working on remote Decatur Island was a



unique opportunity and presented some unique challenges. The logistics of getting to Decatur required workers to stay over on the island during the week. The exotic location was an unusual perk for the crew, who were housed and well fed by a local family. Also, because of the challenge and expense of barging equipment over, and no access to water at the job site, concrete pads were not a feasible option and the panels were anchored with ground screws driven 6-7 feet deep into hard ground. It was also unique to work with a co-op.

“People were incredibly friendly and helpful. Working with the co-op team, the project moved so smoothly and fast,” said Zuidweg. “Also, with OPALCO’s collaborative style, we had a rare opportunity in a commercial project to bring our own ideas and best practices into the design. For example, we sized it up to 500W in order to get a sales tax rebate on equipment purchases, bringing significant savings to the bottom line.”

Member engagement

In order to cultivate member participation and, ultimately, sales of this project, OPALCO launched an educational campaign in April 2017 with a member survey. The outreach strategy utilized all available channels: website, social media, print ads, fliers on community bulletin boards, point-of-purchase displays, banners, info packets, and branded swag. The strategy also included face-to-face meetings with members by seeking invitations to civic, community, and home-owners association meetings on the four ferry-served islands. OPALCO staff held Facebook Live chats and staged pop-up tabling talks at the local food co-op. The most powerful tool developed for this campaign was a calculator on the co-op website (www.opalco.com/solar) that invited members to explore their personal savings and simple payback if they were to participate in the project. The advertising campaign in 2017 gave OPALCO nearly 800 names of members who were interested in participating and OPALCO was then able to offer those members a first shot at pre-sales. Pre-sales opened in March—on the Spring Equinox—leading up to the annual meeting, where a captive audience helped to complete the sales campaign.

Value proposition

OPALCO pre-certified its project with the Washington State Renewable Energy System Incentive Program, assuring members a greater return on investment. In addition, OPALCO applied for (but didn’t budget for) a grant from the USDA’s Rural Energy for America Program through Rural Development. The original value proposition did not include this grant, but OPALCO learned in late July that they have been awarded \$206,993 toward this project. Each member that invested will receive a rebate (estimated at \$20-25/unit purchased), bringing their cost per unit down to \$125-130 and their simple payback down from about 10 to an estimated 7 years. OPALCO’s REAP grant proposal scored the highest of all proposals received and applied for the largest amount in the state.

Leveling the playing field: co-op parity

As a co-op, parity is a fundamental principle and OPALCO wanted its community solar project to be available to all of its members. The barriers to rooftop solar (cost, solar orientation, home-ownership, tree removal, maintenance), and even the relatively accessible cost of community solar, exclude many co-op members. A recent low-income assessment showed about 1,500 households in OPALCO’s service territory (approximately 13 percent) struggle with affordability in the co-op’s high-cost area. OPALCO partnered with the Bonneville Environmental Foundation and garnered a matching grant of \$50,000 to make 10 percent of the community array available to members enrolled in the co-op’s Energy Assist Program. Also, quite a few members accepted an invitation to purchase solar units as a donation for OPALCO’s low-income program, local non-profits, and schools. Janet Alderton was one of those OPALCO members. She has been an advocate for and active participant in solar since reading an article on greenhouse gases and climate change back in 1988 and donated her solar units to a local school.

“I want to help educate and build connections for the next generation,” said Alderton, who has rooftop solar on her home on Orcas Island. “Solar gives us hope for the current and future

continued





inhabitants of our earth—and I love it that our local co-op is offering community solar so that practically everyone can get involved.”

In another attempt to provide equal access to the project, the application process invited members to request as many units as they wanted, but the actual number of units awarded was not confirmed until the project was completely sold (or oversold, in OPALCO’S case), so that all interested members would have an opportunity to participate. Once all units were awarded, charges were applied directly to members’ power bills. While most of the application and billing process was handled via bulk email communication via MailChimp, personal calls went out to the top investors to manage adjustments to their larger requests. Adjustments were made throughout the process, as some members shifted their requests both up and down.

Lessons learned

OPALCO sought pre-certification of the project through Washington State Renewable Energy System Incentive Program in an effort to get the incentives in the hands of as many members as possible. As robust participation in community solar pushed the utility toward the financial caps on the RESIP program, the unintended consequence was fewer incentive dollars available for roof-top solar projects. OPALCO continues to support member-owned local distributed power and believes that it’s an important part of the vision for a future transactive energy grid. As a result, OPALCO met with contractors, fielded calls from members, worked closely with the RESIP administrator, and redoubled its efforts to influence legislators to increase the cap and allow utilities to access incentive quotas that are left unused by other utilities.

On the flip side, a positive lesson learned came from hiring an independent local solar contractor to act as OPALCO’s representative. Loren Dickey of Streamside Renewables proved invaluable to the project, overseeing quality control and keeping the project moving forward on time and budget.

Future vision

OPALCO’s vision is to locate future projects in population centers on the larger ferry-served islands in order to provide emergency back-up power directly to essential services such as medical centers and grocery stores. The biggest challenge will be finding available land for siting future projects. OPALCO General Manager Foster Hildreth has been working closely with county leaders on an update to the San Juan County Comprehensive Plan. The new plan includes OPALCO’s vision for increased local distributed energy on a modernized grid, community solar installations for local resilience, electric vehicle integration, and energy efficiency.

“The writing is on the wall,” said Hildreth. “Market power costs are on the rise and OPALCO is staying ahead of the curve: embracing renewables today to keep rates lower for our members in the future.”

OPALCO will continue to prepare for an increasingly transactive grid, maintain its longstanding relationships with BPA and PNGC, while exploring new opportunities for external generation. This includes cultivating as much local distributed power as possible, especially community solar arrays in population centers where they can provide emergency power and build a network for local resiliency. These forward-thinking strategies for sustainability in OPALCO’s remote archipelago come at a cost and member/ratepayer education is key. Ultimately, owning local generation will help keep rates lower.

OPALCO is grateful to its members for their tremendous support of this first community solar project, and to the BEF and USDA’s Rural Energy for America Program, making it possible to level the playing field for so many co-op members to benefit today and into the future. **NWPPA**

Suzanne Olson is the public relations administrator at Orcas Power & Light Cooperative. She can be contacted at solson@opalco.com.

QUICK FACTS:

Total size of the array: ~504 kW DC, 350 kW AC inverter

Annual production: ~570,000 kWh; first full year estimated to be 579,761, with a 0.5% degradation each following year

Location: Decatur Island substation on ~3.6 acres

When the array started producing energy: Scheduled for July 31, 2018

Cost to participate: \$150 per unit (unit is 75W)

Number of units: 6,720

Project cost: ~\$1,008,000

Number of units each member can purchase: Limited by member interest (TBD)

Number of panels: 1,344 each with a 375W capacity

Number of solar units per panel: 5 (75W each)

Low-income members: 10 percent of the array will be reserved for low-income participants, which requires funding of ~\$100,000. Bonneville Environmental Foundation has agreed to match up to \$50,000 to provide this benefit to low-income members.



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- The *Bulletin* is mailed by the 15th of each month.
- Complete the online Job Opportunities ad placement form at www.nwppa.org.
- NWPPA reserves the right to edit all listings in order to fit size requirements in the publication.

POSITION: [Lineman—Journeyman](#)

COMPANY: Benton PUD (Kennewick, Wash.)

SALARY: \$45.19 per hour

DEADLINE TO APPLY: September 6, 2018

TO APPLY: Visit www.bentonpud.org/careers.

POSITION: [Resource Planner](#)

COMPANY: City of Palo Alto Utilities (Palo Alto, Calif.)

SALARY: \$104,145 - \$127,857 per year

DEADLINE TO APPLY: August 19, 2018

TO APPLY: Visit www.governmentjobs.com/careers/paloaltoca/jobs/2117195/resource-planner?page=2&pagetype=jobOpportunitiesJobs.

POSITION: [Environmental Coordinator](#)

COMPANY: PUD No. 1 of Okanogan County (Okanogan, Wash.)

SALARY: Grade 11: DOE

DEADLINE TO APPLY: August 20, 2018

TO APPLY: Visit www.okanoganpud.org.

POSITION: [Software Developer](#)

COMPANY: Peninsula Light Company (Gig Harbor, Wash.)

SALARY: DOE

DEADLINE TO APPLY: August 26, 2018

TO APPLY: Visit www.penlight.org/job.

POSITION: [Electrical Engineer](#)

COMPANY: Kittitas County PUD (Ellensburg, Wash.)

SALARY: DOE

DEADLINE TO APPLY: September 10, 2018

TO APPLY: Visit <http://www.kittitaspud.com>.

POSITION: [Financial Analyst](#)

COMPANY: Clatskanie People's Utility District (Clatskanie, Ore.)

SALARY: DOE

DEADLINE TO APPLY: August 20, 2018

TO APPLY: Visit www.clatskaniepud.com.

POSITION: [Journeyman Lineman](#)

COMPANY: Peninsula Light Company (Gig Harbor, Wash.)

SALARY: \$44.85 per hour

DEADLINE TO APPLY: August 26, 2018

TO APPLY: Visit www.penlight.org/job.

POSITION: [General Manager](#)

COMPANY: Franklin PUD (Pasco, Wash.)

SALARY: DOE

DEADLINE TO APPLY: August 24, 2018

TO APPLY: Visit www.governmentjobs.com/careers/franklinpud.

POSITION: [Manager of Permitting, Licensing, and Compliance](#)

COMPANY: Alaska Power & Telephone (Port Townsend, Wash.)

SALARY: DOE

DEADLINE TO APPLY: August 20, 2018

TO APPLY: Visit <https://careers-hrpmsi.icims.com/jobs/2649/manager-of-permitting%2c-licensing%2c-and-compliance>.

POSITION: [Journeyman Meterman U18-116](#)

COMPANY: Portland General Electric (Portland, Ore.)

SALARY: DOE

DEADLINE TO APPLY: September 9, 2018

TO APPLY: Visit www.portlandgeneral.com/careers.

POSITION: [Engineer I, Standards \(R18-433\)](#)

COMPANY: Portland General Electric (Portland, Ore.)

SALARY: DOE

DEADLINE TO APPLY: August 20, 2018

TO APPLY: Visit www.portlandgeneral.com/careers.

POSITION: [Journeyman Lineman](#)

COMPANY: Central Lincoln (Newport, Ore.)

SALARY: \$47.44 per hour

DEADLINE TO APPLY: August 16, 2018

TO APPLY: Visit www.governmentjobs.com/careers/cencoast.

POSITION: [Engineering Technician II or Engineering Associate II—Telecommunications](#)
COMPANY: Central Lincoln (Newport, Ore.)
SALARY: \$70,850 - \$95,059 per year
DEADLINE TO APPLY: August 24, 2018
TO APPLY: Visit www.governmentjobs.com/careers/cencoast.

POSITION: [Apprentice Lineman](#)
COMPANY: Consumers Power Inc (Philomath, Ore.)
SALARY: \$32.23 - \$48.80 per hour
DEADLINE TO APPLY: August 22, 2018
TO APPLY: Visit www.cpi.coop/about-cpi/employment-opportunities.

POSITION: [Water Operations Superintendent](#)
COMPANY: Jefferson County PUD (Port Townsend, Wash.)
SALARY: DOE
DEADLINE TO APPLY: August 18, 2018
TO APPLY: Visit www.jeffpud.org/employment.

POSITION: [AMI/Smart Grid Project Manager](#)
COMPANY: City of Roseville (Roseville, Calif.)
SALARY: \$102,477 - \$137,329 per year
DEADLINE TO APPLY: August 17, 2018
TO APPLY: Visit www.roseville.ca.us/jobs.

POSITION: [Electric Technology Systems Technician](#)
COMPANY: City of Roseville (Roseville, Calif.)
SALARY: \$84,282 - \$118,593 per year
DEADLINE TO APPLY: August 17, 2018
TO APPLY: Visit www.roseville.ca.us/jobs.

POSITION: [Journeyman Lineman](#)
COMPANY: Pacific Power (Portland, Ore.)
SALARY: \$44.97 per hour
DEADLINE TO APPLY: August 18, 2018
TO APPLY: Visit www.pacificpower.net/about/careers.html.

POSITION: [Electric Engineering Manager](#)
COMPANY: City of Banning (Banning, Calif.)
SALARY: \$95,011 - \$128,538 per year
DEADLINE TO APPLY: December 31, 2018
TO APPLY: Visit www.ci.banning.ca.us/jobs.aspx.

POSITION: [Engineering Tech II](#)
COMPANY: Homer Electric Association (Homer, Alaska)
SALARY: Per contract
DEADLINE TO APPLY: August 17, 2018
TO APPLY: Visit <http://homerelectric.applicantpro.com/jobs>.

POSITION: [Spec II, SDPM \(R18-404\)](#)
COMPANY: Portland General Electric (Portland, Ore.)
SALARY: DOE
DEADLINE TO APPLY: August 19, 2018
TO APPLY: Visit www.portlandgeneral.com/careers.

POSITION: [General Manager, Planning, Design and Construction \(R18-451\)](#)
COMPANY: Portland General Electric (Portland, Ore.)
SALARY: DOE
DEADLINE TO APPLY: August 25, 2018
TO APPLY: Visit www.portlandgeneral.com/careers.

POSITION: [Operations Field Supervisor](#)
COMPANY: Canby Utility (Canby, Ore.)
SALARY: \$115,000 per year
DEADLINE TO APPLY: October 18, 2018
TO APPLY: Visit www.canbyutility.org.

POSITION: [Journeyman Lineman](#)
COMPANY: Harney Electric Cooperative, Inc (Hines, Ore.)
SALARY: \$40.54 - \$46.07 per hour
DEADLINE TO APPLY: August 19, 2018
TO APPLY: Email heather.bailey@harneyelectric.org.

POSITION: [Mechanical Engineer](#)
COMPANY: Chelan County PUD (Wenatchee, Wash.)
SALARY: DOE
DEADLINE TO APPLY: August 18, 2018
TO APPLY: Visit www.chelanpud.org/about-us/careers.

POSITION: [Journeyman Estimator](#)
COMPANY: Pacific Power (Roseburg, Ore.)
SALARY: \$43.04 per hour
DEADLINE TO APPLY: August 17, 2018
TO APPLY: Visit www.pacificpower.net/about/careers.html.

POSITION: [Electrical Maintenance Technician](#)
COMPANY: PUD No. 2 of Pacific County (Raymond, Wash.)
SALARY: \$48.22 per hour
DEADLINE TO APPLY: August 17, 2018
TO APPLY: Visit www.pacificpud.org/PUD%20Employment.pdf.

POSITION: [Lineman](#)
COMPANY: Northern Wasco County PUD (The Dalles, Ore.)
SALARY: \$46.71 per hour
DEADLINE TO APPLY: September 16, 2018
TO APPLY: Visit www.nwasco.com/jobs.cfm.

POSITION: [Journeyman Lineman](#)
COMPANY: Canby Utility (Canby, Ore.)
SALARY: \$44.70 per hour
DEADLINE TO APPLY: August 31, 2018
TO APPLY: Visit www.canbyutility.org/about/jobs.

POSITION: [SCADA Technician](#)
COMPANY: City of Ketchikan (Ketchikan, Alaska)
SALARY: \$38.73 per hour
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Call (253) 988-2449

Aztech Electric, Inc.

P.O. Box 11795
(Zip 99211-1795)
5204 E. Broadway
Spokane Valley, WA 99212
Call (509) 536-6200

Brent Woodward, Inc.

307 S.W. 2nd St.
Redmond, OR 97756
Call (541) 504-5538

Burke Electric LLC

13563 S.E. 27th Place, Ste. A
Bellevue, WA 98005
Call (425) 644-0351*

Cache Valley Electric

1338 South Gustin Road
Salt Lake City, UT 84104
Call (801) 978-1983

Christenson Electric Inc.

17201 N.E. Sacramento St.
Portland, OR 97230
Call (503) 419-3300*

Cougar Construction

3015 Salem Ave. S.E.
Albany, OR 97321
Call (541) 791-3410

DJ's Electrical, Inc.

2319 S.E. Grace Ave.
Battle Ground, WA 98604
Call (360) 666-8070
(360) 518-0904*

EC Company

6412 S. 196th St.
Kent, WA 98032
Call (206) 242-3010

Holmes Electric

600 Washington Ave. S.
Kent, WA 98032
Call (253) 479-4000

International Line Builders, Inc.

SO. California Office
2520 Rubidoux Blvd.
Riverside, CA 92509-2147
Call (951) 682-2982

International Line Builders, Inc.

Sacramento Office
1550 S. River Rd.
West Sacramento, CA 95691
Call (503) 692-0193
(Tualatin's-we transfer)

International Line Builders, Inc.

Tualatin Office
19020 A S.W. Cipole Rd.
Tualatin, OR 97062
Call (503) 692-0193

International Line Builders, Inc.

Newman Lake Office
5516 N. Starr Rd.
Newman Lake, WA 99025
Call (503) 692-0193
(503) 523-7985 cell

Jaco Construction, Inc.

P.O. Box 1167
Ephrata, WA 98823-1167
Call (509) 787-1518

Key Line Construction, Inc.

725 Ash St.
Myrtle Point, OR 97458
Call (541) 559-1085

Magnum Power, LLC

P.O. Box 355
Castle Rock, WA 98611
Call (360) 967-2180
(360) 901-4642*
(360) 901-0233*

Michels Power

P.O. Box 15059
Tumwater, WA 98511-5059
9433 Dowcor Lane S.W.
Tumwater, WA 98512
Call (360) 236-0472

Mountain Power Construction

5299 N. Pleasant View Rd.
Post Falls, ID 83854
Call (208) 667-6011
(208) 659-0832*

NW Utility Services, LLC

228 Frontage Rd S Suite A
Pacific, WA 98047
Call (253) 891-7802

O'Neill Electric Inc.

4444 S.E. 27th Ave.
Portland, OR 97202
Call (503) 493-6045

Par Electrical Contractors

2340 Industrial Ave.
P.O. Box 521
Hubbard, OR 97032
Call (503) 982-4651

Potelco, Inc.

3884 Highway 99 E.
Hubbard, OR 97032
Call (503) 902-0255

Potelco, Inc.

14103 Stewart Rd.
Sumner, WA 98390-9622
Call (253) 863-0484*

Power City Electric, Inc.

3327 E. Olive
P.O. Box 2507
Spokane, WA 99202
Call (509) 535-8500

Power Technology

1602 Guild Rd.
Woodland, WA 98674
Call (360) 841-8331

Robinson Brothers Construction, Inc.

6150 N.E. 137th Ave.
Vancouver, WA 98682
Call (360) 576-5359

Salish Construction

10111 S. Tacoma Way Ste. D1
Lakewood, WA 98499
Call (253) 922-5325
(253) 218-8233*

Service Electric Co.

1615 First Street
P.O. Box 1489
Snohomish, WA 98291
Call (360) 568-6966

Sturgeon Electric Company, Inc.

1500 N.E. Graham Rd.
Troutdale, OR 97060
Call (503) 661-1568

Summit Line Construction

875 South Industrial Parkway
Heber City, UT 84032
Call (435) 657-0721
(435) 503-5393 cell

Tice Electric Company

5405 N. Lagoon Ave.
Portland, OR 97217
Call (503) 233-8801

Wilson Construction Company

1190 N.W. 3rd Ave.
P.O. Box 1190
Canby, OR 97013
Call (503) 263-6882
(503) 720-0016*

Yates Line Construction Company

7358 Hillsboro Silverton Hwy.
Silverton, OR 97381
Call (503) 812-9827*



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